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Docket No. 49917 (868)

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Mitsuaki NAKAMURA and Keisuke IWASAKI
SERIAL NO.: Not Yet Assigned
[Express Mail Label No. EL298355200US]
FILED: Herewith
FOR: IMAGE PROCESSING DEVICE AND METHOD

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly add the following new claims.

--11. (new) The image processing device of claim 1,
wherein the contrast estimate means estimates contrast (Lv, Hv) as contrast of
the input image, which is defined by a combination of luminance Lv corresponding to
a color of lines and dots generated in the input image and luminance Hv
corresponding to a color of a background of the input image, and
the luminance correction means raises the contrast (Lv, Hv) of the input image
to a maximum of contrast (Vmin, Vmax) which is defined by a combination of lower
limit of luminance Vmin and upper limit of luminance Vmax of possible luminances,
so that a lower luminance and higher luminance of luminances Lv, Hv which define
the contrast of the input image are converted to the lower limit of luminance Vmin and
upper limit of luminance Vmax.

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